CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: SOME HOT INFO ON GOVERNOR'S RACE AND AN UPDATE ON THE U.S. SENATE RACE.
Editor's note: Here's another update & analysis on the U.S. Senate and Governor's contest for 1998...

☒ ***Governor's Race*** - As October drifts into November, we're a year away from Calif.'s 1998 general election --- and still no word from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) on whether she'll run. However...

...Most, but not all **Calpeek** sources now believe that DiFi will run. A little gossip. The subject of DiFi and the governor's race came up at a private breakfast meeting in L.A. with VP Al Gore. At the breakfast: former White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers; former HUD Sec./now broadcast exec. Henry Cisneros; former Congressman Mel Levine; political consultants Julio Ramirez, Bob Squier & Joe Cerrell; and Demo/L.A. City power broker Bill Wardlaw. Sources say that when Gore asked about DiFi, Wardlaw said she was running. A Ditto from Dee Dee. FYI: sources also say that DiFi was pleased with the new set of numbers in the *L.A. Times* poll...

...Shifting from DiFi to the campaign of businessman Al Checchi. The *deep pocketed Demo* who wants to be governor got some bad news Oct. 19th in the form of a 100 column-inch story by *San Jose Mercury News* political editor Phil Trounstine. The story is about Checchi and his takeover and running of Northwest Airlines (1989-93). The headline reads: **Governor bid rides on story of airline**. The subhead reads: ***Al Checchi says he saved Northwest; critics say he nearly destroyed it***...

...Our sources view this story as about 70/30, *negative to positive* and it's puzzling to neutral observers why the Checchi campaign would FAX this story all over the place. If the widespread distribution was considered a form of *damage control*, then perhaps Checchi ought to think twice about running for elective office. FYI: if you're in organized labor, this article should set off alarms. And if you're an insider, this well-written Trounsine story is **must reading**...

...Checchi's operation wasn't the only campaign to fax the story. Demo Lt. Gov. Gray Davis' campaign faxed it too, with a covering memo from campaign director Garry South, which read in part: "*This well-researched article gives the lie to Checchi's self-serving, lemon-freshened version of events at Northwest - and makes clear that his main success was to make himself rich while nearly crashing the airline.*" Does this article have political legs? Absolutely. Who said the closest thing to a corporate takeover battle is a political campaign???

☒ ***U.S. Senate*** - On Sept. 27th at the CRP convention in Anaheim, GOP businessman Darrell Issa released new data from his campaign pollster, Wirthlin Worldwide, showing the race ***dead even*** among the 3 Republican challengers who want to replace U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) next year. Among GOP voters in an open primary, the Wirthlin survey showed CA Treas. Matt Fong, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding and Issa all tied at **19%** (with Boxer getting 12% of the GOP vote and 31% undecided). Spin, spin, spin...

...On Oct. 13th, the *L.A. Times* released its own poll of the U.S. Senate race and that poll *contrasts sharply* with the Issa/Wirthlin survey. The *L.A. Times* poll showed that among GOP voters, Fong holds a fairly hefty lead at **32%**, followed by Golding at **15%**, with Issa at **9%** (Boxer's numbers are again 12% among GOPers, with 32% undecided)...

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...In an open primary among all voters, Boxer is at 45%, followed by Fong at 16%, Golding at 9% and Issa at 6%, with 24% undecided. This is fairly close to what the Issa/Wirthlin poll showed, except that Issa is a little higher and Fong is a little lower...

...In the important 1-on-1 matches between Boxer and her GOP rivals, here's how the *L.A. Times* shows it:

Boxer 49% vs. Fong 37% (14% don't know)
Boxer 48% vs. Golding 34% (18% other/don't know)
Boxer 51% vs. Issa 31% (18% other/don't know)

...FYI: Issa's campaign took a fairly solid hit Oct. 8th in the *Wall Street Journal*, when reporter Mitchell Benson wrote a story about Issa's company getting a $177,223 grant from the State of Calif. to help retain his firm's workers. For those who have listened to Issa's radio spots, this is a guy who constantly bitches about the government (get them off our back). Sounds like, *Do as I say, not as I do*...

☒ ***The AG's Race*** - Although a final decision has yet to be made, **Calpeek** sources say if term limits is tossed out and Senate Pres. Bill Lockyer(D) runs for reelection, L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn(D) will give a serious look at running for AG. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON CALIF. SHERIFF RACES.
Editor's note: Here's our 4th update on races for County Sheriff in 1998, where 57 of Calif.'s 58 counties will hold elections...

...The big news is that Orange Co. Sheriff Brad Gates will **not** seek a 7th term. Had he run and been reelected, he would have become the *Dean of the Sheriffs*. Gates was first elected in 1975, but was facing a very tough reelection battle in '98 from County Marshal Michael S. Carona, who is backed by the ***Orange Co. GOP Junta***, who control much of what goes on politically in this county. And with Gates out of the way, Carona becomes the favorite to become the new sheriff. But he could have problems. Carona has **no** patrol, jail or investigative *experience*. In fact, according to one law & order insider, Carona wouldn't qualify to be a sergeant in the O.C. Sheriff's Dept...

...Gates will back Asst. Sheriff Doug Storm, 46, who has been endorsed by Gates and several police chiefs from various O.C. cities. Forde & Mollrich are the consultants for Storm...

...Gates becomes the 5th veteran sheriff to announce retirement plans. The others are Don McDonald of El Dorado, Glen Craig of Sacto, Larry Carpenter of Ventura and Oren R. Fox of Imperial County. After Campaign '98, the new dean of the sheriffs will be S.F. Co.'s Mike Hennessey, who was first elected in 1980...

...In other news, **L.A. Co.**'s Sherman Block made it official as he announced for another term, sporting endorsements from all five county supes, plus the backing from the L.A. Co. Police Chief's Assn., who represent chiefs in 48 cities within the county...In **Butte Co.**, CHP officer Dan Schreiber of Chico will run against incumbent Sheriff Mick Grey, who is seeking a 3rd term. Stay tuned...

LATE FALL ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS
Editor's note: Here's another brief report on the upcoming elections set for Nov. 4th. This week the focus is on the Mayor's race in ***San Bernardino***...

...With another week to go, sources believe the election to pick a successor to San Bernardino Mayor Tom Minor has boiled down to 4 candidates: San Berdu Councilman David Oberhelman; former councilwoman Ann Botts; college president/educator Judith Valles; and attorney Tim Prince. There are two other candidates in the race...

...The economy is still the key problem for this city of 184,000. The closure of Norton AFB (and the loss of 11,000 jobs) was a killer. And thus in almost nightly candidate debates, the subject turns to *who is best qualified to turn San Bernardino around?* Prince has tried to make ***Measure S*** (a lame attempt by the city to raise taxes in March of '97) and ***Stampede Stadium*** - a minor league baseball stadium which cost $40 million - into hot issues. He was opposed to both...

...FYI: Valles recently won the endorsement of the *San Bernardino Sun Telegram*. Oberhelman has backing from the Police & Firefighters and came in second to Valles in fundraising. Some sources see the overall race as a 4-way toss up, while others see this race boiling down to Oberhelman vs. Valles. Stay tuned...

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CALIF. POLITICAL TREASURERS' ASSN. IS FORMED.
The Calif. Political Treasurer's Assn.(CPTA) is accepting memberships. Annual dues are $75. All interested parties should contact Renita Lloyd-Smith ☎(213)623-3682. The next CPTA meeting is at 12 noon, Nov. 7, law offices of Nielsen, Merksamer in Sacto. Call Rich Eichman (916)442-2280 for details...

46th CD UPDATE: IS BOB DORNAN RUNNING IN '98?
Editor's note: Here's a brief update & analysis on developments in the 46th CD in Orange Co...

...When former Congressman Bob Dornan recently took out papers for reelection in '98, was that just a formality so that he can raise money to pay his legal expenses - or was it for real? That's the key question, but there's no simple answer...

...A campaign spokesperson for 46th CD Republican candidate Lisa Hughes says the last thing Dornan told her was that he was **not** running in '98. So until she hears directly from Dornan, Hughes is raising money and running. Anaheim Councilman Bob Zemel has said before that he won't run if Dornan is a candidate --- and right now Dornan **is** a candidate. As for O.C. Judge James Gray, he recently threw his hat into the GOP ring, so insiders believe he's in for the long term...

...Dornan, Orange Co.'s *congressman in exile*, is totally obsessed by the '96 election and is convinced he narrowly lost to new U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D) because of illegal citizen voting. The GOP-controlled U.S. House is ***still undecided*** what to do, but the *L.A. Times* reports that the House is unlikely to act on Dornan's claim in 1997. That doesn't make Dornan a happy camper, but he continues to chat up his case as a regular guest on various conservative talk radio shows. *B-1 Bob*'s radio gigs don't sit well with the Calif. Demo Party, who have formally complained to the FEC...

...House Republicans are really in a tight spot and perhaps that is why this 46th CD controversy has dragged on for so long. The GOP wants the 46th CD back in their column, but **not** with Dornan. And they know if they void the election, this action won't sit well with Latino voters across the U.S. And from the comments made by Sanchez COS Steve Jost, it's almost like the Demos are *baiting* the House GOP to throw Sanchez out. Sanchez won by some 984 votes, but at least 305 votes were cast by persons who were **not** U.S. Citizens at the time they were registered to vote - according to new data from Calif. SOS Bill Jones(R). Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: 3 MORE MEASURES GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT; 19 PROPOSALS ON THE STREET.
Editor's note: Last week there were 16 initiatives in circulation; this week 19. Last week there were 13 measures at the AG's office awaiting *title & summary*; this week 25. A number of these measures appear to be duplicates, where the proponents have changed the wording. Here's our update, beginning with the new measures in circulation...

☒ **Taxes. Business Deductions, Credits, Exemptions. Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment** is the official title of this measure by Dan Terry of the *Calif. Professional Firefighters* in Sacto. Proponents refer to this initiative as the "Right to Vote on Tax Loopholes Act." It's another in a series of measures by Calif. labor to retaliate for an anti-union initiative being pushed by Gov. Pete Wilson and his GOP allies. This measure has until Mar. 9 to collect 693,230 valid signatures...

☒ ***Video-Slot Machines***. There are two(2) constitutional amendments by James Taylor (read that as Palm Springs developer Mark Bragg) which are almost identical. In fact, the official titles are identical: *Gambling. Video-Slot Machines. Taxation. Initiative Constitutional Amendment*. The only difference: one measure allows 5,000 slots, the other only 3,000. And these initiatives take the place of a similar measure by Taylor which has just been collecting dust. These new measures have until Mar. 16 to collect 693,230 valid signatures...

☒ ***Bilingual Update*** - *English for the Children*, the official committee pushing this initiative, has signed up former Garfield High School math teacher Jaime Escalante as the honorary chair of the initiative. And the latest *L.A. Times* poll showed this measure winning with big numbers: 80% Yes vs. 18% against, with 2% don't know. Among Latino voters, the margin was greater: 84% Yes vs. 16% No. FYI: UTLA, Calif.'s largest teachers' union, has scheduled a membership referendum on this initiative for the week of Nov. 24...

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CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS' DIRECTORY ON SALE
The all-new, 1997-98 sixth edition of **Calpeek's Directory of Campaign Consultants** is hot off the press and is ready for sale. Cost for **Calpeek** subscribers is just $15. Cost for **non-subscribers** is $50. Checks ONLY. No invoicing and no credit cards...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***46th AD Update*** - New polling info from the campaign of Demo school board member Vickie Castro. The survey was done by Evans/McDonough Co. (Oct. 17-18, 300 likely & 100 registered voters). In the special election to replace Assemblyman Louis Caldera (D-L.A.), Castro holds a 6 pt. lead over former SEIU #660 leader Gil Cedillo - 21% to 15%, with attorney Ricardo Torres at 7%. 21% favor the other 6 candidates, while 36% are undecided. Castro's name ID is 53% vs. 46% for Torres and 42% for Cedillo. The special election is Nov. 18th...

■ ***Council OKs L.A. Sports Arena Deal*** - After more than a year's delay, the L.A. City Council has finally given its approval to a $250 million plan to build a new entertainment & sports arena next to the Convention Center. **Best quote** (a **Calpeek** source) regarding this long battle: *"Had Willie Brown been mayor of L.A., the Kings and Lakers would be playing in this new arena right now."* Is this a slap at the hands-off approach of Mayor Richard Riordan? You bet...

■ ***Great Valley Center Opens*** - With a $1 million grant from the Hewlette Foundation, The Great Valley Center has opened its HQ at 911 13th St., in Modesto. The Great Valley Center's basic aim: help guide the Valley's growth. Former Modesto Mayor Carol Whiteside is the group's founder and another ex Modesto mayor, Dan Whitehurst, is the Center's chairman. Geographic coverage area: Bakersfield to Redding...

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For those inclined to use it, we do have an E-mail address: **calpeek@aol.com.** We check our E-Mail 4-5 times a week...

L.A. MAYOR RIORDAN TO GIVE STATE OF THE VALLEY ADDRESS AT VICA's 47th ANNUAL MEETING.
L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan will be the featured speaker at Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.'s 47th annual meeting & luncheon, 12:15 p.m., Nov. 14, Warner Center Marriott Hotel, Woodland Hills. For info ☎(818)888-2228...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● P/A & community relations executive Ira Handelman has been named sr. consultant to The Kamber Group/L.A...

● Kathryn S. Schloessman has been named president of the L.A. Sports & Entertainment Commission. The commission will act as the official bid and host organization for the city...

● Gregory B. Maw has been hired as a sr. consultant by the Sacto-based campaign management firm of Russo, Marsh + Raper...

● Christine Quirk has joined the firm of Portland, OR-based polling firm of LGD Insight as a sr. associate...

● The CA Farm Bureau Federation has moved its HQ to 2300 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. ☎(916)561-5500. E-mail: cfbf@cfbf.com...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Position available:** Media Director - requires min. 5 years experience. PR agency exp. a plus. Act as primary media contact for public affairs and public relations accounts. Must have strong writing, creative, counseling skills. Fax resume to Hal Dash @ Cerrell Associates (213)466-8653...

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